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Marie T. Breslin
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EX PARTE OR LATE FILED



February 23, 1998

EX PARTE

Ms. Magalie Roman Salas
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

RECEIVED

FEB 23 1998

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Re: NSD File No. L-98-03, CC Docket No. 96-98

Dear Ms. Salas:

The attached letter, regarding the New York State Department of Public Service's request for expedited waived of the Commission's rules governing area code relief, was sent today to the Chief-Network Services Division of the Common Carrier Bureau.

Please include a copy of this letter in the public record of the above-captioned proceedings.

Sincerely,

Marie Breslin

Attachment

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February 23, 1998

Ms. Geraldine A. Matisse
Chief, Network Services Division
Common Carrier Bureau
Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: NSD File No. L-98-03, CC Docket No. 96-98

Dear Ms. Matisse:

I am writing in response to your letter of February 12 asking for additional information in connection with the NY DPS petition for waiver relating to the area code overlays in New York City. Questions 10, 13 and 14 in your letter appear to be directed solely to the New York Commission, and Bell Atlantic, therefore has not answered them (though it is prepared to do so if you wish). In fact, Bell Atlantic already answered 13 and 14 in its response to the DPS waiver request.

Question 1: How many rate centers are there in the 718 area code?

There are 13 rate centers in the 718 area code, one of which is partially in 212.

Question 2: How many competitive local exchange carriers (CLECs) are certified to provide service in the 212 area code? How many are providing service?

Bell Atlantic expects the New York PSC to provide an official response to this question.

Question 3: How many CLECs are certified to provide service in the 718 area code? How many are providing service?

Bell Atlantic expects the New York PSC to provide an official response to this question.

Question 4: How many NXXs have been assigned in the 212 area code to CLECs? How many NXXs have been assigned in the 212 area code to the incumbent local exchange carrier (ILEC)?

According to Bell Atlantic's records, 114 NXXs have been assigned to CLECs and 626 to the ILEC as of February 17. There are 39 additional codes excluded from assignment, such as special purpose and test codes.

Question 5: How many NXXs have been assigned in the 718 area code to CLECs? How many NXXs have been assigned in the 718 area code to the ILEC?

According to Bell Atlantic's records, 95 NXXs have been assigned to CLECs and 501 to the ILEC as of February 17. There are 41 additional codes excluded from assignment, such as special purpose and test codes.

Question 6: For each assigned NXX in each area code, please specify the contamination rate and the carrier to which it is assigned.

Bell Atlantic does not know the contamination rate of NXXs assigned to other carriers. A study by the New York Commission referred to in its waiver request (based upon data that is now several months old) indicates that Bell Atlantic then had an 80 percent utilization rate in 212. Bell Atlantic is working to update the 212 data and on a similar analysis for the 718 NPA, which should be available in a few days. Bell Atlantic considers information concerning contamination rate by NXX to be proprietary.

Question 7: If most or all of the 1000 number blocks in an NXX are contaminated, how will pooling help to alleviate competitive concerns?

If all or most of the 1000 number blocks are contaminated, pooling will be less effective. However, even without pooling, there should be no "competitive concerns" here, as data compiled by the New York Commission indicate that the CLECs have proportionately more unused telephone numbers in the 212 area code than Bell Atlantic does.

Question 8: Is there permissive ten-digit dialing when calling within the 212, 718 and 917 area codes?

Today, permissive ten- and eleven-digit dialing does not exist for calls within the 212 and 718 NPAs, but it will be introduced as part of the implementation of area code relief for those NPAs. We understand that wireless carriers generally provide permissive ten- or eleven-digit dialing within the 917 NPA, and Bell Atlantic is developing a plan to provide that capability for calls originating on its landline network as well.

Question 9: Will there be permissive ten-digit dialing for calls within the new NPA?

Like the existing NPAs (*i.e.*, 212 and 718), permissive ten- and eleven-digit dialing will be implemented for the new 646 and 347 NPAs as part of the implementation of area code relief.

Question 11: Will the 646 area code still be activated as an overlay for Manhattan effective April 1, 1998? If not, what is the revised date?

No, the 646 area code will not be activated effective April 1, 1998.

The revised date depends on how the Commission decides this waiver request and when that decision is made. The network preparation work takes about the same amount of time for a ten-digit overlay as for a seven-digit overlay (about six months). However, if ten-digit dialing is mandatory as soon as the new code is opened, then Bell Atlantic believes that a permissive dialing period of six months before that date is necessary. Bell Atlantic has begun implementing a ten-digit overlay for 646, consistent with federal regulations. With the six-month permissive dialing period, the new 646 area code would be opened by March 1999. If the Commission were to waive the ten-digit dialing requirement, Bell Atlantic would probably have to undo some of the network preparation work it had already done and could activate the 646 NPA approximately six months thereafter.

Question 12: Will the 347 area code still be activated as an overlay for Brooklyn, the Bronx, Queens and Staten Island effective January 1, 1999? If not, what is the revised date?

See previous answer.

The development of a implementation schedule of a ten-digit overlay for the 718 relief effort is in progress. Should the waiver be denied, the planned activation date for the 347 NPA as a ten-digit overlay has not yet been determined; however, the earliest possible date for NPA activation would be March 1999.

Question 15: Describe with specificity the pooling method that will be used for New York City? Is the pooling method the same for each area code?

Bell Atlantic expects that the national standard form of number pooling will be implemented throughout New York City. At this point, Bell Atlantic believes that this will be 1000 block number pooling with activate on demand and include NXX codes with a contamination level no higher than ten percent.

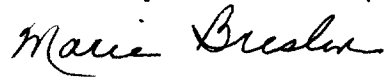
Question 16: How are you evaluating potential Service Control Point (SCP) database capacity problems with number pooling? How would the pooling plan address these concerns?

Bell Atlantic recognizes that number pooling will put additional loads on our SCPs and could exhaust the capacities of those databases. The industry is working on a more efficient way to store information in the SCP (storing ranges of telephone numbers rather than individual numbers) that should resolve this issue.

Question 17: When will permanent number portability be implemented in New York City?

New York City is part of the New York MSA, which is in the first wave of number portability conversions, scheduled to be completed by March 31. Bell Atlantic received no initial requests for number portability in three offices in New York City, but will provide portability in these offices in April based on a request received after the completion of the original schedule.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Marie Breslin". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Marie Breslin

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Mary Liz Hepburn, hereby certify that on this 23rd day of February 1998, a copy of the foregoing Letter was served on the following parties via overnight mail.



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